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In the Claims:

Cancel claims 18 to 20 and 22 such that the claim set reads as follows:

1. (previously submitted) A bag presenter apparatus for use to present a bag for filling by a packaging machine, the bag including a first side panel and an opposite side panel and the packaging machine having a filling station including a filling chute and a filled bag conveyor, the bag presenter apparatus comprising: a bag gripper for holding the bag to be filled by the packaging machine relative to the filling chute of the packaging machine such that materials from the chute can be introduced to the bag, the bag gripper operable to hold the bag to be filled without wicket pins also engaging the bag and the bag gripper configurable to hold the first side panel of the bag and in a position conducive to engagement of the bag by the filled bag conveyor of the packaging machine; a conveyor for moving the bag from a supply area toward the bag gripper; and a bag handler for carrying the bag from the conveyor to the gripper.
2. (original) The bag presenter apparatus of claim 1 being a stand-alone unit and being mountable relative to the filling chute of a wicketed bag-packaging machine.
3. (previously submitted) The bag presenter apparatus of claim 1 being a stand-alone unit positionable below the filling chute of the bag-packaging machine when any wicket pins have been moved out of the way.
4. (previously submitted) The bag presenter apparatus of claim 1 wherein the bag gripper includes a pair of spaced apart gripping fingers positioned to hold the bag at two positions such that the filled bag conveyor can engage the bag for conveyance in a manner substantially similar to a wicketed bag holding configuration.
5. (original) The bag presenter apparatus of claim 1 wherein the bag gripper includes a pair of spaced apart gripping pinchers selected to grip a first side panel of the bag to be filled at two spaced apart fixed points.

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6. (previously submitted) The bag presenter apparatus of claim 1 wherein the bag presenter moves the bag to be filled along a substantially uniform direction from a bag supply area to the bag gripper.
7. (previously submitted) The bag presenter apparatus of claim 1 wherein the conveyor including a belt and a bag orientating device acting relative to the belt to ensure appropriate bag orientation in the conveyor.
8. (previously submitted) The bag presenter of claim 7 wherein the bag orientating device includes a stop mechanism, selected to stop advancement of the bag to be filled moved by the belt and to orient the bag relative to the belt direction of travel.
9. (previously submitted) The bag presenter of claim 8 wherein the stop mechanism is movable into and out of an operable position to stop advancement of the bag to be filled.
10. (original) The bag presenter of claim 9 wherein the stop mechanism can be driven to extend through and to retract from, a drive surface plane defined by the surface of the belt.
11. (previously submitted) The bag presenter of claim 1, wherein the conveyor comprises a bag opening mechanism including engaging devices selected to engage the side panels of the bag and pull them apart.
12. (original) The bag presenter of claim 11 wherein the bag opening mechanism includes a sensor for detecting a non-opening bag.
13. (cancelled)
14. (previously submitted) The bag presenter of claim 1 wherein the conveyor is selected to move a subsequent bag into position for moving to the gripper when the bag handler is carrying a first bag from the conveyor to the gripper.

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- 15.(previously submitted) The bag presenter of claim 1 wherein the bag handler is an arm moveable between the conveyor and the gripper and moves to pull the bag upwardly into position for engagement by the gripper.
- 16.(previously submitted) The bag presenter of claim 1 further comprising a bag feeder for moving a bottom bag from the bag supply to the conveyor .
- 17.(previously submitted) The bag presenter of claim 7 wherein the conveyor is expandable to adjust for various bag widths.
- 18.(cancelled)
- 19.(cancelled)
- 20.(cancelled)
- 21.(cancelled)
- 22.(cancelled)
- 23.(cancelled)
- 24.(previously submitted) A bag presenter apparatus for use to present a bag for filling by a packaging machine, the bag including a first side panel and an opposite side panel and the packaging machine having a filling station including a filling chute and a filled bag conveyor, the bag presenter apparatus comprising: a bag gripper for holding the bag to be filled by the packaging machine relative to the filling chute of the packaging machine such that materials from the chute can be introduced to the bag and the bag gripper configurable to hold the first side panel of the bag and in a position conducive to engagement of the bag by the filled bag conveyor of the packaging machine and a conveyor for moving the bag from a supply area toward the bag gripper, the conveyor including a belt and a bag orientating device acting relative to the belt to ensure appropriate bag orientation in the conveyor.

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- 25.(previously submitted) The bag presenter of claim 24 wherein the bag orientating device includes a stop mechanism, selected to stop advancement of a bag moved by the belt and to orient the bag relative to the belt direction of travel.
- 26.(previously submitted) The bag presenter of claim 25 wherein the stop mechanism is movable into and out of an operable position to stop advancement of a bag.
- 27.(previously submitted) The bag presenter of claim 26 wherein the stop mechanism can be driven to extend through and to retract from, a drive surface plane defined by the surface of the belt.